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SIGMA XI QUARTERLY

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Floyd Karker Richtmyer Edwin Emery Slosson
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

Attention is called to the fact that the list of chapter officers as printed on the inside back cover of each number of the *QUARTERLY* represents the latest official information furnished by the individual chapters. If your chapter is not correctly represented there, please call attention to the fact. The Secretary occasionally receives communications charging him with being two years behind the times because he printed the last list of officers furnished by the chapter. It is of importance for all, both those who are in the Society and those outside of it, that this list should be thoroughly up to date

PRIVILEGES FOR NEW MEMBERS

In the midwinter meetings during Convention week, Sigma Xi has been given a place as an affiliated society in the circle of organizations related to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This gives a valuable tho not generally recognized privilege. Newly elected members of affiliated societies may join the American Association without payment of the usual entrance fee, if they do so before the second October 1 following the date of their election to the Society. The Association sends out special invitations to all new members of affiliated societies, and it is desirable for this purpose, if for no other, that lists of newly elected members be prepared and forwarded promptly to the Secretary's office.

SIGMA XI IN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Especial attention should be called to the new amendment to the Constitution which provides that active chapters of Sigma Xi may be located in research institutions. In the discussions carried on during recent years it developed that the Society as a whole was strongly in favor of this provision. One or two dangers were recognized by various individuals and were taken into consideration in formulating the phraseology of the amendment.

In one case a fear was expressed that such a movement would result in permitting the control of the Society to pass out of the hands of educational institutions and into the hands of those who were less familiar with its history and ideals. Such a condition appears to be highly improbable under the conditions as stated in the amendment. The number of research institutions in the country which by any possibility might acquire relations to Sigma Xi is such a small fraction of the number of educational institutions that no change in control appears likely. As a matter of fact most of the research institutions are controlled by private interests and established for individual purposes so that they could not come into relations with the Society under the terms of the new amendment. There are a few distinguished exceptions to this rule and it would seem appropriate for the Society to recognize their independent character and join them in the encouragement of research and the development of more numerous and larger opportunities for investigation.

If it were true that all the members of these research institutions came from institutions in which Sigma Xi had established chapters, then the need of any such relation between the Society and the research institutions would be less pronounced. Statistics show, however, that the larger part of the staff of such institutions is drawn from colleges where no chapters of Sigma Xi exist. At the Mayo Foundation, where an alumni chapter was recently founded, three quarters of the teaching and investigating staff had never been brought anywhere in contact with Sigma Xi. It is thoroughly in accord with the fundamental principles of this organization that its influence should be felt in every such place in favor of developing pure science and its investigations, and such an influence cannot be exercised if the organization holds itself aloof from such institutions. No one can fail to recognize the large part which

independent research institutions are to play within the near future in the development of knowledge and in the emphasis on research. Shall Sigma Xi hold itself aloof from this movement and be content to let a field go untouched in which it has a natural right to work? The last Convention decided unanimously that it should not.